

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EB-11

COME-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /116 W

----- 063859

R 231734Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9687

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDELMC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 0424

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BEXP, BE

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR F-104

REF: STATE 12937

1. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE WASHINGTON SUPPORT EXPRESSED  
IN REFTEL FOR FIELD EFFORTS TO ASSIST AMERICAN AIRCRAFT  
MANUFACTURERS ATTEMPTING TO SELL AMERICAN REPLACEMENT  
FOR F-104. WE HAVE ALREADY ON EVERY POSSIBLE OCCASION  
DRAWN ON ARGUMENTS AND IDEAS REVIEWED IN REFTEL AND  
PREVIOUS SUBMISSIONS FROM FIELD (BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE,  
USNATO, OSLO, COPENHAGEN) IN TALKS WITH SENIOR LEVELS OF  
BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN  
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COMING WEEKS. IN LIGHT OF OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS, WE

PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THIS DIALOGUE WITH WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE AS POLICY REVIEW MENTIONED IN PARA 2 REFTEL COMPLETED.

2. CURRENT BELGIAN POLITICAL SITUATION FOLLOWING FALL OF LEBURTON GOVERNMENT ON JANUARY 19 INTRODUCES SOME UNCERTAINTY INTO SITUATION BUT ON PLUS SIDE PROVIDES ADDITIONAL TIME FOR U.S. EFFORTS (BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC) TO PLAY ROLE IN GOB DECISION MAKING. PREVIOUS MINISTERS ARE REMAINING IN PLACE IN CARETAKER STATUS BUT ARE, UNABLE TO MAKE PURCHASE DECISION. HOWEVER, AS INFORMED LOCAL SOURCE PUT IT, WHILE CHAIRS MAY BE DIFFERENT PLAYERS WILL BE THE SAME. FORMATION OF NEW BELGIAN CABINET MAY TAKE TWO MONTHS OR MORE (PARTICULARLY IF ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD, AS NOW APPEARS HIGHLY PROBABLE). ONLY AFTER FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT CAN POLITICAL LEVEL ATTENTIONS FOCUS ON F-104 REPLACEMENT.

3. MEANWHILE TECHNICAL LEVEL STUDIES (MILITARY AND ECONOMIC) CONTINUE UNDERWAY WITHIN GOB, OFFERING US OPPORTUNITIES TO REPEAT EXISTING ARGUEMENTS AND TO INTRODUCE NEW ONES AS THEY ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO US. EQUALLY IMPORTANT IT GIVES OUR COMPANIES MORE TIME TO WORK ON THEIR PROPOSALS WITH BELGIANS.

4. INTERREGNUM ALSO PROVIDES MORE TIME FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN BELGIAN, DUTCH, DANISH, AND NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTS (POSSIBLY WITH GERMAN SUPPORT). IN SUM, BELGIAN POLITICAL CRISIS MAY OFFER US A BIT MORE SCOPE AND WE SHOULD PROFIT FROM IT.

5. OCCASIONAL RUMORS ABOUT BELGIAN INTEREST IN ANGLO-FRENCH JAGUAR APPEAR TO BE COMPLETELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. BOTH DEFENSE ATTACHE AND MAAG CHIEF AIR FORCE SECTION HAVE INVESTIGATED THIS SUBJECT RECENTLY AND WERE TOLD BY CHIEF OF STAFF BELGIAN AIR FORCE THAT JAGUAR IS NOT RPT NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION. STRAUSS-HUPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES, CONTRACTS  
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**Draft Date:** 23 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR F-104  
**TAGS:** MASS, BEXP, BE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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